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COUNTY PRISONS ARE INSPECTED

STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS WILL FIX NEW STANDARDS.

PALMETTO CAPITOL NEWS

General News of South Carolina Collected and Condensed From The State Capital That Will Prove of Interest to All Our Readers.

Columbia.

The secretary and the assistant secretary of the state board of charities and corrections since August 4, 1915, have visited every county penitentiary and charitable institution in South Carolina except about 12 chaingangs. Reports on these inspections have been made to the board and, except in the counties visited very recently, detailed accounts of the findings and recommendations of the agents of the board have been sent to the officials who have these institutions in charge and to other interested persons.

Having gotten for the board of charities and corrections a firsthand view of the administration, physical equipment and method of treating prisoners, convicts and paupers in practically every county institution in the state that cares for these classes, the secretary of the board and his assistant will undertake the important work of fixing standards for these institutions and getting them introduced through the co-operation of county officials who are in charge of them. In fixing the standards for county penitentiary and charitable institutions, the agents of the board will be governed by the standards in force in other states in county jails, almshouses and chaingangs, and by what they have seen in the best of these institutions in South Carolina.

During the coming months the agents of the board will undertake a systematic study of the cost of maintaining penal and charitable institutions in counties in different parts of the state. Whether or not the county chaingang system of road building is excessively expensive has been a widely discussed question in the state of late. It is expected that the investigations of the agents of the board will help materially in deciding this matter.

Another new work which the state board of charities and corrections will carry on during the coming months will be a study of the administration by the counties of outdoor relief to paupers or supposed paupers. The county supply bill carries each year thousands of dollars for "county almshouse and outside poor" or similarly entitled items. Since the outdoor system of relieving paupers as opposed to the institution system has been found to be especially wasteful and badly abused in other states, a study of it in South Carolina may result in saving considerable sums for the counties.

Death Rate High, Birth Rate Low.

Not only is the annual death rate for negroes in South Carolina larger than for white people but the annual birth rate is smaller, according to figures compiled by the bureau of vital statistics. The death rates, based on returns for 1915, are: For whites, 12.6; for negroes, 17.4. The birth rates are: For whites, 29.1; for negroes, 26.7. One hundred and thirty-nine homicides were recorded.

Of the 24,561 deaths occurring last year in South Carolina, making an annual death rate per 1,000 population of 15.2, 9,141 were white people, 15,350 were negroes and 10 were Indians. There were 44,950 births, distributed as follows: White males, 11,015; white females, 10,127; negro males, 12,110; negro females, 11,512; Indian males, 2; Indian females, 184. The annual birth rate for the state is 28.

Governor Manning Names Delegates.

Gov. Manning has appointed the following delegates to attend the fifth session of the Southern Sociological congress, New Orleans, April 12-16: D. E. Canak, Spartanburg; R. E. King, Charleston; Paul H. McMillan, Charleston; M. L. Carlisle, Greenville; George B. Cromer, Newberry; Mrs. Rufus Pant, Anderson; K. F. Finlay, Columbia; J. H. Harms, Newberry; A. T. Jamison, Greenwood; J. A. McCullough, Greenville; Josiah Moore, Columbia; George W. Quick, Greenville; Gustaf Sylvan, Columbia; D. H. Douglas, Clinton; E. M. Potat, Greenville; John E. White, Anderson; William Keyserling, St. Helena Island; Miss E. E. McClintock, Columbia; H. N. Snyder, Spartanburg; Mrs. John Gary Evans, Spartanburg; Frank Evans, Spartanburg; D. D. Wallace, Spartanburg.

Health Promoters Return.

The legislatures of Southeastern States will be memorialized by health officials to enact a law requiring school buildings to be constructed so as to conserve the health of the pupils. This step was taken at the annual convention of the Southeastern Sanitary Association at its recent convention which was attended by James A. Hayne, M. D., state health officer; Skottowe B. Fishburne, M. D., city health officer, and F. Asbury Coward, M. D., bacteriologist, state board of health. Dr. Fishburne is vice-president

Teaching Adults Produce Results.

"I feel like I wuz goin' to new ground," "thout no tools!" was the way one South Carolina farmer expressed his sensation on accepting an invitation to become a pupil in one of the adult night schools in this state, which are giving new hope and life to thousands of mature men and women—many of them parents and grandparents—who never had the opportunity in youth to go to school. In a remarkably short time this same man won a prize in his class.

This was one of the incidents which came to light on the occasion of the round-table talk instituted by W. K. Tate, former supervisor of elementary rural schools in this state, at a meeting of the elementary teachers in Columbia recently.

In one county there was something like 44 of these schools, with 2,000 pupils enrolled—2,000 grown-up men and women going to school three nights in each week.

The testimony of the teachers of these adult night schools is that many more men than women attend. This at first was surprising; but when the cause was investigated, it was learned that in nearly all of these families there are children, most of them pupils of the day school. It was not practical for both mother and father to leave home at night—one had to stay with the children, and since it was keenly realized that education invariably meant better pay, the wife stayed at home and let the husband go to school. In some cases, they took it turn-about, the husband going half the term and then staying at home with the little ones, so that the wife might attend during the remainder of the term.

More Insurance Companies Quit.

Four fire insurance companies, three foreign and one American, ordered withdrawal from the state on account of the provisions of the Laney-Odom anti-compact law, which went into effect a few days ago. The names of all companies that have definitely withdrawn will hardly be available before April 1, when companies must again be licensed.

The companies withdrawing were: The Nationale, Phenix and Union, all of Paris, and the Rhode Island of Providence.

J. Arthur Banks of St. Matthews, state senator from Calhoun county, who has been closely aligned with John L. McLaurin in the development of the state warehouse system and has been in touch with him during the insurance turmoil consequent upon the passage of the anti-compact bill, issued a statement "calling upon the people to rally to the sovereignty of the state."

Senator Banks also takes the position that if necessary the state itself should protect the interests of the property holders of South Carolina in this crisis, commending the emergency suggestion of Senator McLaurin along this line. A firm and determined stand by the people in the face of "the flood of misinformation" being scattered among the companies in New York and elsewhere in the North, is the keynote of his appeal.

To Increase Total Taxables.

The signing of the \$4,731,720 bonds and certificates of stock issued by the sinking fund commission for the retirement of previous state bonds has been completed. There are 4,008 coupon bonds of \$1,000 each and two stock certificates, one for \$723,595.67 and the other for \$124.33.

By the issuing of these bonds \$5,622,745.97 of previous bonds will be retired. The difference represents the assets of the sinking fund commission, which has retired an aggregate of about \$891,000 in bonds.

The new bonds, which will be disposed of in Charleston, Columbia, New York and Richmond, are exempt from state, county and municipal taxation. They are not allowed, however, to be deducted from capital stock of corporations holding them; in this way approximately \$1,500,000 will be added to the taxable property of the state, as the other bonds allowed this exemption.

Manning Studying Insurance.

Gov. Manning is said to be gathering information quietly and carefully from both sides in regard to the fire insurance situation and to be endeavoring to work out a solution on a business basis. It is intimated that he has some hope of bringing about a satisfactory adjustment of the whole matter within the next 30 days.

Manning Enjoys First Vacation.

Gov. Manning has returned to Columbia after spending several days at St. Augustine. This was his first vacation since entering the governor's office.

Secretary Issues New Charts.

The Middleton Compress and Warehouse Company of Charleston has been commissioned by the secretary of state with a capital of \$100,000. The petitioners are: F. H. Horbeck and J. J. Pringle.

The Finn Jewelry store of Walterboro has been commissioned with a capital of \$500. The petitioners are S. Finn and C. H. Koger.

The Washington Real Estate Corporation of Charleston has been commissioned, with a capital of \$500. The petitioners are: T. Moultrie Mordecai and Charles L. Pearlstone.

The Bank of Saluda has been chartered with a capital of \$25,000. The officers are: B. W. Crouch, president; M. A. Coleman, vice president; W. A. Crouch, secretary, and J. P. Lindler cashier.

BRITISH CAPTURE GERMAN TRENCHES

FRONT OF 600 YARDS IS TAKEN BY STORM OF BRITISH INFANTRY.

THE BIG GUNS ARE ACTIVE

Bombarding Intense Around Verdun and Also in the Woivre Region—Shelling in the Argonne.

London.—British and Germans have been fighting fiercely in the region of St. Eloi, just south of Ypres, and the British through the explosion of a big mine, and by infantry charges have captured or destroyed a considerable portion of the German trenches.

The British infantry stormed and took first and second line trenches along a front of 600 yards. London officially announces and Berlin admits that German trenches in this region were blown up, to an extent of 100 yards and that "casualties were caused among the company occupying the position."

Again the bombardment has become intense northwest and northeast of Verdun, and the big guns also have been active in the Woivre region, southeast of the fortress. The time seemingly is not ripe, however, for an infantry attack, and the men of both sides have lain idle in their trenches, awaiting the moment for attack and counter-attack.

The Germans, after a period of comparative quiet, have again begun shelling Bethincourt Le Mort Homme and Cumieres, west of the Meuse and are keeping up with increasing volume, their bombardment of the French positions in the region of Vaux and Douaumont, which have been stumbling blocks for several weeks in their attempts to gain ground northeast of Verdun.

French shells are falling on the German positions in the Argonne and northeast of the St. Mihiel salient.

AIRMEN FACE DIFFICULTIES.

Flying Problems Are Greater Than Those of European Aviators.

Field Headquarters American Expedition Column, Colonia Dublan, Chihuahua, Mexico, by Aeroplane to Columbus, N. M.—The first aero squadron in the United States Army in a week's service with Brigadier General Pershing's expedition in Mexico, has surmounted flying problems more difficult than most of those encountered by European aviators.

The work thus far has been without serious accident. One of the senior aviators said that only in the Alps are the European fliers likely to encounter conditions paralleling those under which the Americans are now working.

"Never," said this aviator, "have we had any flying as difficult as here. We are under a handicap of an altitude of about 5,200 feet when we rise. Some of the mountains we have tried to get over were approximately 9,000 feet above sea level and none of our machines is powerful enough to carry the pilot, observer and sufficient fuel at such an altitude. We might get over one of the high mountains but we probably would be unable to carry enough fuel for the return flight."

Railroad Problem Important.

El Paso, Texas.—With the conviction that the chase of Francisco Villa would prove long and tedious, attention here turned once more on the railroad situation. Dispatches from Washington and San Antonio that military authorities were becoming increasingly impatient to use the Mexican railways, confirmed the belief held here for the last week that the railroad problem was the present crux of the situation.

Machine Guns For Louisiana.

Norfolk, Va.—Having on board several machine guns, consigned to the battleship Louisiana which is now at Vera Cruz, the United States naval collier Jupiter has sailed from Hampton Roads for Vera Cruz.

Germany Would Apologize.

Washington.—With all evidence indicating that the British Channel steamer Sussex, carrying American citizens, was the victim of a torpedo, it was authoritatively stated that if a German submarine made the attack the Imperial Government would disavow the act, and satisfy the United States that the act was in violation of instructions. Thus it seemed that the issue might narrow down to the question of whether the United States would be willing to accept such a declaration.

Republicans Play "Hands Off."

Washington.—Failure of Senate Republicans to take any action at a conference on the Mexican situation left the Administration unhampered in dealing with the problem. The conference was called to consider action forcing the despatch of additional troops to the border for patrol duty. In the face of official advice denying alarming reports, however, and General Funston's apparent confidence that he had enough men for any present emergency, the Republicans adjourned.

PERCY EDWARD QUIN



Congressman Percy Edwards Quin represents the Seventh district of Mississippi. He has served in the Sixty-third and Sixty-fourth sessions of congress.

GEN. HERRERA JOINS VILLA

CARRANZA COMMANDER IN CHIEF HUAHUA WITH 2,000 MEN SIDES WITH BANDIT.

Probable That He Will Interupt Wire Service With Pershing and the Border.

San Antonio, Tex.—Reports that Gen. Luis Herrera, commanding 2,000 men at Chihuahua, had aligned himself with Francisco Villa against the United States, were received with grave concern by General Funston and his staff. Officially and unofficially the opinion was that with Herrera joining forces with Villa the international situation might easily be made so complex that by comparison the pursuit of Villa would be regarded as incidental.

The long intervals between reports from the field commander of the American expedition already had keyed the tension a bit, although General Funston and his chief-of-staff continued to profess the belief that all was well with the troops below Casas Grandes, but the report from Chihuahua made insignificant any anxiety they might have felt concerning General Pershing's operations.

T. R. Beltran, Mexican Consul here, said that he had not received confirmation of the report and he was inclined to laugh at it as a "border rumor." According to the version here, Herrera was removed from command and immediately took steps to alienate his garrison. That Carranza has enough loyal troops in northern Mexico to drive him from the city of Chihuahua, if he aims to hold the place, was believed by military men here.

CHINA CHANGES AGAIN.

Monarchy Abandoned By Yuan Shi Kai Who Resumes Presidency.

Peking.—A state department mandate issued announces the abandonment of the monarchy and resumption of the Republic.

MANY BIG FIRES REPORTED.

Augusta, Ga.—Fire which has caused damage estimated at from \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000 in the heart of Augusta's business district and the adjoining residence district, still burned briskly, but was under control. No lives were lost. In the twenty-five blocks which were swept clean were the greater portion of Broad street and 500 residences, including the most costly in the city.

Nashville, Tenn.—A small ball of yarn, lighted and thrown by a boy into dry grass in a vacant lot, started a conflagration in Nashville which was not under control after 35 residence blocks had been swept by the fire. The loss was \$150,000.

Natchez, Miss.—Fire of undetermined origin partially destroyed the plant of the Natchez Dressed Beef Company causing damage estimated at from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

Paris, Texas.—Every incoming train was bringing provisions, clothing and tents to the approximately 8,000 homeless persons in Paris, rendered practically destitute by fire, which did property damage estimated at between \$8,000,000 and \$10,000,000. Three persons lost their lives.

Tulsa, Okla.—Revised estimates of the damage as a result of the prairie fire which swept over four sections of land in the Cushing oil field place the loss at approximately \$200,000.

Rockingham, N. C.—Fire fanned by a 40-mile gale, destroyed the McDonnell hotel here. The loss was \$8,000.

VILLA ESCAPES MEXICAN TROOPS

BANDIT LEADER HAD NO TROUBLE IN LICKING CARRANZA'S TROOPS.

U. S. CAVALRY IN PURSUIT

Americans are Handicapped—250 Miles From Base and Hunt in Mountains Is Difficult.

San Antonio, Texas.—Francisco Villa has escaped from the Mexican troops that had checked him near Nampqua and three columns of American cavalry are pursuing him.

Already they are almost 250 miles south of the border and unless Mexican forces bring the elusive bandit to a stand, this distance will be greatly increased by the close of the week.

Villa's success in extricating himself from the dangerous position into which he had been driven by the American punitive force was related in a detailed report by General Pershing that reached General Funston.

General Funston forwarded the report to Washington without making public any but the essential features.

Colonel Dodd is commanding the advanced columns that are riding hard after Villa and his men and General Pershing has divided his forces so as to provide supporting columns along the thinly stretched lines of communication from his most advanced base at El Valle. From El Valle another line is being maintained back to Casas Grandes from where communication with the border is maintained.

General Pershing himself is somewhere south of Casas Grandes directing the work of holding together his forces and directing so far as possible the operations of Colonel Dodd. Cavalry is being used along the lines communicating with El Valle where a detachment of infantry is stationed.

Three aeroplanes are at El Valle and will be used in scouting as soon as the high winds that have been sweeping that part of Mexico for almost a week subside. These winds, according to General Pershing, have made effective assistance by the aeroplanes impossible. Of the eight machines that went into Mexico two are still out of commission.

Details of the operations about Nampqua that concluded with the escape of Villa were not revealed, but there is little reason to believe that he was badly whipped or even weakened by the fighting directed against him by the de facto government troops.

IMPATIENT WITH CARRANZA.

Delay in Granting Use of Railroads Is Not Pleasing.

San Antonio, Tex.—Carranza's delay in permitting the movement into Mexico over the Mexican Northwestern Railway of supplies for the American troops has created impatience at army headquarters that was hardly disguised.

The quartermaster department has sent to El Paso a quantity of stores for immediate shipment and officers here did not credit an unofficial report that General Obregon had declared that no permission for use of the line would be given.

Failure to send supplies over the railroad would not stop the campaign, it was said, but it was admitted that it would materially retard General Pershing's activities.

Already the change in the position of the United States forces, observers here pointed out, would make the line of National Railways of Mexico, which goes straight from Juarez to Chihuahua, the logical one to use.

Whether General Funston requests the government to get permission to use the National, however, will depend upon the answer to the request already made, he said.

Another Grand-Daughter For Wilson.

Philadelphia.—A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Francis Bowes Sayre here. She is the second grand-daughter of President Wilson and will be named Eleanor Axson Sayre, for Mrs. Sayre's mother. Mother and child were reported to be doing well.

Jess Willard Is Still Champion.

New York.—Jess Willard is still the heavyweight pugilistic champion of the world. In 10 rounds of fast fighting he defeated Frank Moran of Pittsburgh here on points. A crowd of about 13,000 persons paid approximately \$150,000 to see the fight and went away apparently satisfied with the result. It was the greatest gathering Madison Square Garden had ever seen.

Willard broke his right hand in the third round but blows from his fighting left kept Moran at a distance.

Norfolk Has Big Fire.

Norfolk, Va.—Two fires of unknown origin, caused damage estimated at \$262,000 in this city. The Progress building, in the heart of the wholesale district in Water street was completely destroyed, the loss being placed at \$237,000. The plant of the Colonial Cereal Company in Brambleton Avenue, was also destroyed, the loss being \$25,000. The fire at the cereal plant had just been gotten under control when the Progress building situated in the western end of the business section was discovered on fire.

MME. OBREGON



Maria Tapia, the famous beauty of Mexico, who recently became the bride of General Obregon, President Carranza's favorite general. President Carranza acted as best man at the wedding ceremony.

HAY BILL PASSES HOUSE

ONLY TWO MEMBERS VOTED AGAINST NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MEASURE.

Britten of Illinois Opposed Bill Because he Favored Greater Increase; London Favored No Increase.

Washington.—The Hay army increase bill providing for a regular army peace strength of 140,000 fighting men instead of the present 100,000 passed the house by a vote of 402 to 2. It goes to the senate for immediate consideration virtually as drafted by the house committee.

The negative votes were cast by Representative Britten, Republican of Illinois, and London, Socialist of New York.

Mr. Britten opposed the bill because he favored a still further increase in the army and London because he favored no increase.

The bill is the first of President Wilson's great national preparedness measures to pass either house, although various related measures have been approved. It was finally adopted only after Representative Kahn, ranking Republican member of the military committee again had met defeat—this time 213 to 191—in his effort to increase the authorized strength of the regulars to 220,000.

During the debate Chairman Hay of the committee that drew the bill referred to it as "the President's own bill." It was explained at the White House, however, that while the president approved the ground plan of the measure, he was not committed to its details. The conference on the senate and house plans, to come after the senate acts, is expected by administration officials to produce a bill which will have the president's full support.

HEAVY FIGHTING IN EAST.

Masses of Russians Are Pressing Germans From Riga District.

London.—Except on the front near Gomecourt and the Bethune-LaBassée road, where the British gained some advantages in fights against the Germans, no infantry engagements have taken place along the line in France and Belgium. Heavy fighting, however, continues between the Germans and Russians on the Eastern front from the region of Riga southward.

The Germans northwest of Verdun are continuing their violent shelling of the Malancourt sector and again have trained their guns on the French front of Bethincourt, Le Mort Homme and Cumieres probably preparatory to fresh infantry attacks in an effort to break through the line when the moment seems propitious.

3,000 Homeless in Augusta.

Augusta, Ga.—With six business blocks levelled by fire and more than 600 houses destroyed, Augusta is flooding and housing its 3,000 homeless, without aid from the outside world.

Estimates of the first loss remained at \$5,000,000 tonight, but citizens who discussed the disaster expressed the view that the loss of 130 business houses was not felt more than was the destruction of many historical buildings.

Lost Lieutenant Found.

Columbus, N. M.—Lieut. Edgar S. Correll of the United States aero corps, missing since last Sunday was found three miles south of Ascension by a Twentieth Infantry motor truck train, according to reports to military headquarters. Correll was uninjured, but was out of gasoline and had lost his way. With the receipt of today's reports all of the eight army aviators, who left here last Sunday to fly to Casas Grandes, have been accounted for. Lieutenant Correll missed his way and was forced to alight.

STEAMER SUSSEX WAS TORPEDOED

WAS SUBMARINED WITHOUT WARNING.—THE VESSEL WAS SAVED.

40 LIVES REPORTED LOST

Several Americans Were Aboard the Sussex, and One or Two of Them Lost Their Lives.

Paris.—Scarcely any doubts exists at the American embassy here that two American lives have been lost in the disaster to the steamer Sussex.

The American ambassador, William G. Sharp, sent Naval Lieut. L. D. Smith by automobile to Boulogne and he will investigate the cause of the disaster and assist and Americans who may need help.

The depositions of some of the American survivors who have arrived at Paris are being taken by the embassy to be forwarded to the state department at Washington.

From 30 to 50 persons, according to the estimates here, out of 380 passengers and the crew of 56, were lost. The weight of the testimony is that the Sussex was torpedoed by a submarine, without warning.

At least 20 have been injured and one of the survivors declares that Miss Elizabeth Baldwin, an American, lost her life, while another American passenger is reported missing.

Cable despatches say that the loss of life on the Sussex may reach a total of 40.

No confirmation could be obtained at the ministry of marine this afternoon of the number of lives actually lost in the disaster, but the estimate of 40 was considered unlikely because it was the women and children's saloon forward where the vessel was struck.

A single, narrow companionway led from this saloon. There were only five private cabins on the boat, four on the deck and one between decks, hence the public saloons were crowded. These cross channel steamers always are full because there are only three crossings each way weekly.

The officers of the Sussex warned the passengers quickly not to be alarmed, but a number of persons, mostly women, are said to have jumped overboard. Some were drowned and others with life preservers were picked up after considerable delay, in a few cases as much as four hours later.

HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES.

Germans and French Keep up Vigorous Bombardment.

London.—It is still in the French and Russian war theaters that the heaviest battles are in progress, but fighting also is continuing in the Austro-Italian zone, in Serbia near the Greek frontier and in Asiatic Turkey.

The French are keeping up their vigorous bombardment of the woods of Malancourt and Avocourt, northwest of Verdun, which are held by the Germans, and also are hammering away with their guns at German lines of communication in the eastern fringes of the Argonne forest.

All along the Russian front from the region of Friedrichstadt to the district around Viena the Russians and Germans are hard at grips. Petrograd says that near Widsy, between Ivinisk and Vilna, the Russian forced all the German lines and barricades and repulsed a vigorous German counter-attack.

Berlin, however, says that here the Russian attacks failed with heavy losses before the German entanglements.

Tells of Navy's Needs.

Washington.—Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske declared before the house naval committee that regardless of how many ships were built, it would be impossible to carry out the general board's plan for making the American navy equal to any afloat by 1925, because it would take ten years longer to develop and train the personnel necessary to man the navy in first rank.

Agree on Speed-Up Plan.

Washington.—House Democrats adopted a resolution outlining a plan for speeding up the administration legislative program with a view to adjournment before the national political conventions in June as urged by President Wilson. They pledged themselves to co-operation in earlier daily meetings and to such light sessions as may seem advisable. The plan is to handle at night sessions the business of all special days in the week except the so-called calendar Wednesday.

All Powers Agree on Plan.

Washington.—All of the Entente powers, through their embassies here, have handed to Secretary Lansing formal responses rejecting the proposal made by the state department in its circular memorandum that they enter into a modus vivendi and disarm all of their merchant ships with the understanding that the United States government would endeavor to secure from the Central powers a pledge not to attack any such unarmed ships without warning and without providing for the safety of the passengers.